

## Joint Media Release No. 688

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### **BUSY PERIOD FOR TSMPP**

It is a busy period for the Torres Strait Maritime Pathways Project (TSMPP) with three different training programmes currently underway.

The TSMPP is funded by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and delivered in partnership with Maritime Safety Queensland and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said fifteen students are presently completing the Coxswain/Marine Engine Driver training programme on board the training charter vessel M.V. Elizabeth EII within the Torres Strait. These qualifications enable participants to command and operate vessels up to 12 metres long and operate as a Chief or Second Engineer.

“Twelve students are also presently undertaking the Certificate III in Fishing Operations training programme at the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania. This qualification provides participants with a variety of seafood industry skills and dive qualifications to work in the commercial hookah dive industry,” Mr Elu said.

“The third training programme underway is the Certificate III in Maritime Operations – Master up to 24 metres; this is the first time that the TSMPP has delivered this training programme and the first two students to successfully complete this program are James Mills and Iwao Takai.

“This qualification enables participants to command a commercial vessel up to 24 metres long; or act as Chief Mate or deck watch-keeper on a vessel up to 35 metres long; or act as Chief Mate or deck watch-keeper on a vessel up to 80m long.”

Mr Elu said the primary aim of the TSMPP is to further develop the skills and capability of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people, residing within the Torres Strait region, to operate commercial vessels and create maritime career pathways in related industries such as fishing, tourism, coastal trading and the offshore maritime shipping industry.

“These training programmes hone the seafaring skills of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people and helps strengthen our region’s economy,” Mr Elu said.

“It increases the number of Indigenous people who will be safer, more skilled and confident in running sustainable maritime businesses and fisheries related businesses in particular.”

**ENDS**

**TSRA Media Contact – Bruce Nelson telephone 0423 403 449**



*Photo Caption – TSMPP students completing the Certificate III in Fishing Operations and Master up to 24 metres training programs at the Australian Maritime College.*

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